

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/471,577

Applicant(s)

LUDWIG, LESTER F.

Examiner

George Eng

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/8/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 17-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 December 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


GEORGE ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-3 and 17-52 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to a system for providing multimedia telecommunication services to one or more premises (i.e., a multimedia central office including at least one switch complex operatively associated with the digital switch and at least one twisted pair transceiver, wherein the multimedia central office transceives a first plurality of signals with a first at least one of multimedia workstations interfaced to the public digital telephone network, and transceives a second plurality of signals with a second at least one of the multimedia workstations interfaced to at least one twisted pair link in the telephone loop plant, and wherein the multimedia central office being configured to combine captured signals, of at least three users including signals from a workstation in the first premises network and signals from another workstation not in the first premises network, into a mosaic image for reproduction at a workstation of at least one user).

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a system for providing video communication services to one or more premises with a structure as defined in the specification (pages 6-9 and pages 23-31) including a first premises network, a plurality of user workstations interconnected by the first premises network, each of said plurality of user workstations having one of at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities, video sink and display capabilities and both at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and video sink and display capabilities, a multimedia central office being in communication with the first

Art Unit: 2643

premise network and being adapted for coupling to a public digital network, the multimedia central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals for providing at least switching functions originating at or destined for at least one user workstation, to and from the first premises network to provide video communications services, the multimedia central office further being coupled to at least one other workstation, not associated with the first premises network, and the multimedia central office being configured to combine captured video images, of at least three users including an image from a workstation in the first premises network and an image from a workstation not in the first premises network, into a mosaic image for reproduction at a workstation of at least one user. Applicant's independent claim 1 comprises a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant's claims are allowed for these reasons and for the reasons recited by Applicant in Amendments filed 3/12/2002, 3/13/2003, 3/23/2004 and 12/8/2004.

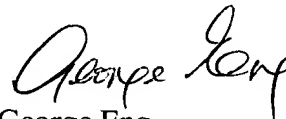
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is (571) 272-7495. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 7:30 AM-6:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2643

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George Eng
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2643